

Those Were The Days No 477

WHEN WE WON THE CUP



Wycombe's big day at Highbury



A REMINDER of one of the greatest days in the history of Wycombe Wanderers football from the Spring of 1931 when the team won the Amateur Cup, comes from a crowd picture sent in by Mr. Fred Gurney, 58 Havenfield Road, High Wycombe, for Those Were The Days No. 478. The final was at Highbury, home of the Arsenal and the Wanderers beat Hayes 1-0 with a late goal from left winger Alf Britnell.

Says Fred Gurney, pictured above with his wife "In those days my wife and I used to hire a coach for away games for the family and friends, most of whom are in this picture. The little mascot I don't know, I wonder if he is still around and recognises himself?"

"I started to watch Wycombe first year after World War I and my wife and I still follow them, home and away."

Well, thanks for the memory, Mr. Gurney, and here also for good measure, is that well worn picture of that team, presented with the compliments of the old News Chronicle back row, G. Harris (trainer), J. Kipping, R. S. Cox, R. F. Gardiner (hon. gen. secretary), second row, C. Simmons, W. Brown, D. S. Vernon, F. C. Braisher, A. T. Britnell, front, G. Tapping, L. R. Badrick (vice captain), inset A. Greenwell and F. C. Rance. This old picture came in from Mr. J. H. Glenister, 2 Inkerman Drive, Hazlemere.

My day of real bargains from the Common Market

IT SEEMS a very long time ago now that the country was split down the middle over plans to launch us into the Common Market. We weighed up the advantages, set them against the fears that we would lose our independence and sovereignty and later stepped straight into our first continental style referendum to see if we should stay put.

And after all the controversy, it seemed that almost over night we were celebrating with fanfares and festivals that having joined the Market, we were quite suddenly real Europeans. Now, some years on, the debate still continues. There are those who put all our economic troubles down to the fact that we are 'in' and others who feel equally convinced that if we were 'out', we would be sinking even further to rock bottom.

On the face of it too, it's often difficult to see any tangible advantages to the British people as a result of entry into the Common Market — especially over the Christmas period when television news bulletins show films of droves of day trippers from Germany, France or Belgium rushing around our shores for a few hours, buying up everything in sight and enthusiastically telling the interviewers in broken English how cheap everything is in England.

Stores like Marks and Spencers are now well used to these parties of shoppers who appear to buy everything from butter to overcoats several times over — and the larger London shops like Selfridges have the same experience. So you might well start to wonder what went wrong — after all, the Common Market was supposed to give us equal opportunities.

Well in fact it does — as more and more English trippers are finding out by hopping across the Channel, having a few hours on French shores and returning

home with their quota of duty free goods and a few carefully selected bargains to boot.

Invest first

The other day, I did my own spot of turning the tables on the French, thanks to British Rail who are whisking parties of trippers across the Channel by ferry and hovercraft to the ports of Boulogne and Calais for around £6 a head out of London.

To get any return on anything you've first got to invest a little, they say. So before you start working out how much you've saved on your shopping expedition to the Continent, you've got to bear in mind the initial outlay of the fare.

But when all's said and done, you are getting a good day out for the price of the ticket, and with children travelling for around half price, even the much maligned British Rail are giving first class value on these trips.

Once you've set out from London's Charing Cross station, there's a fairly quick rail trip down to the Hoveports or docks at Dover and Folkestone — whether you decide to travel on the car ferry or hovercraft is up to you or according to the volume of bookings. Another feature is found out at this time of year is the state of the Channel, for the hoveports which skim across the sea in around half the time of the ferries do tend to be taken out of service if the waves get a little too rough.

But whichever way you travel, you soon get into the 'x-mas' of bookings. Youngsters, who won't be quite so taken by the journey time can have great fun exploring the ship — and there's even a discotheque in

the depths of the ferry where they can dance away the passage.

If there aren't too many people on board when you're travelling, there might be the opportunity to join the captain up on the bridge from where you can look out over a sea surprisingly crowded by ships of all sizes and inspect the sophisticated radar system which keeps them safely at arm's length.

An early start

Having made the crossing myself in pretty poor weather conditions, I can vouch that into a fairly steady and comfortable ex-

perience that needn't worry too much those prone to 'mal de mer'.

If you don't mind an early start out of London, you can be on the other side of the Channel in time for lunch and give yourself about five hours in France to seek out the bargains — and there certainly are some good buys to be found.

British Summer Time puts us in line with clocks on the Continent at the moment, and since most of the shops in Boulogne close for lunch until two, by far the best idea on arriving at the port is to set off and discover a restaurant for lunch — and there are plenty to choose from.

There's an information centre just outside the docks where British Rail's representatives will direct you to some of the best eating places or supermarkets, but the real fun of the day out comes in searching them out for yourself.

Eating out is one of the first delights of this sort of day trip — and it represents you first big saving too, for the price of a meal is not astronomical and what you get for your money is certainly much better value than those French tourists must encounter when they set foot on our own shores.

Take the Menusirel Restaurant in Boulogne's Rue De Brequevague for example. It's one of France's famous routiere establishments, which give exceptional value for money.

be matched on these shores for double the price! A coffee and Cognac rounds off lunch — and then you'll want to do some walking around the streets of this quaint but bustling port. With those bargains in mind, by far the best place to head for is one of the hypermarkets that are only a few minutes from the ferry.

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And off to market

The Champion hyper in Boulogne is a must — as is some sort of holiday brought with you to carry away the goods back on board. Certainly there are a number of things that will cost you a lot more on foreign shores than

pound, you can pick up a bottle of good Boulogne brandy that would take more than double out of your pocket back home.

On these day trips you can bring back two litres of table wine duty free as well as a litre bottle of spirits and the usual 200 cigarettes. You can pick up these duty free goods on board the ferry, but as far as wines are concerned, by far the biggest savings are to be had at the hyper-market — and there the selection of labels is mind-boggling.

Bottled beer like Kronenbourg is also far cheaper than on these shores — so if you're really after making a saving on this day trip, and are equipped with plenty of willing hands to do the carrying, then you can bring back several pounds worth since this sort of item comes in under the 'other goods' category in the tax concessions under which you can bring up to the value of £10 per person.

By the end of the day, you can't help feeling that as well as getting in on a fair bit of money-saving, you've taken in more than a little of that exclusive 'French atmosphere', even if on a good day those white cliffs are never really out of sight.

If you want to drive down to Dover or Folkestone and don't mind getting up at the crack of dawn, you can be away on the first hovercraft at just after seven in the morning — and leave France on the last ferry back from Calais at around ten at night.

That way, the fare between April 3 and May 30 will be just £6 return — £4.25 for children. But travelling from London by train, it's still only £8. If you've got a car, take it along, too. Otherwise, if you're over sixteen, take along two passport photographs and British Rail will organise a 24-hour identity card.

It challenges anyone to come up with better value for money and a better way of taking advantage of Britain's membership of the Common Market.

INTO EUROPE (WELL BOULOGNE) WITH DEREK COX

Slipping a glass of delicious house wine labelled La Bouille du Patron, you can cast your eye over an incredible menu offering a vast choice of foods. Being a seaport, items like mussels, various fish and seafood are predominant, but there are the traditional French delicacies like frog legs and snails. Their huge bowls of fish soup are out of this world and the main courses give even wider choices of fish, meat and poultry all served in those unique French sauces. Where in England could you have your 'ice cream' served up in a miniature Champagne bottle that carried away after the meal as a souvenir helps to serve as a suitable reminder of a day on the Continent and a meal that for around four pounds a head couldn't

be matched on these shores for double the price! A coffee and Cognac rounds off lunch — and then you'll want to do some walking around the streets of this quaint but bustling port. With those bargains in mind, by far the best place to head for is one of the hypermarkets that are only a few minutes from the ferry.

The French have always been renowned for their cheap 'snack' and there's plenty to hand — but they are also well known for their good wines. For under a